

CLAIMS:

1. A method of entering a security code into a data-processing apparatus (2), the method comprising the steps of:

a. recording the audio data which are being produced when a sequence of phonemes is spoken by a user (1);

5 b. deriving a security code, based on the sequence of phonemes, from the recorded audio data.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the security code represents a cryptographic key for secured communication in a network (10).

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the audio data are subdivided into an estimated sequence of phonemes, and these estimated phonemes are assigned to a group of phonemes from a predetermined classification of phoneme groups, in which the sequence of phoneme groups thus obtained describes the searched security code.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that a quality measure is computed about the security of assignment of the audio data to the groups of phonemes.

5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that
20 biometric characteristics in the audio data are used for authentication of a user (1).

6. A data-processing unit (2) requiring the entry of a security code for performing its function, the data-processing unit comprising:

a. a speech-recording unit (3, 6) for recording the audio data that are being
25 produced when a user (1) speaks a sequence of phonemes;

b. a speech analysis unit (4), coupled to the speech recording unit (3, 6), for deriving a security code from the recorded audio data on the basis of the sequence of phonemes.

7. A data-processing unit as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that it is adapted to perform a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5.

5 8. A data-processing unit as claimed in claim 6 or 7, characterized in that it is adapted to indicate to the user (1), via a display (7), when recorded audio data cannot be used for deriving a security code.

9. A data-processing apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8,
10 characterized in that it comprises a communication interface (8) for wireless communication with a network (10).

10. A network (10) of apparatuses (2, 9a-9d) communicating with each other, in which a data-processing apparatus (2) as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 9 is present in a sub-network coupled to the network via at least one wireless connection.